



## **RETIREE**

### **Cannon Air Force Base New Mexico**

**Col Timothy Leahy, 27 Special Operations Wing Commander**

**Col Hans Kaspar, 27 Special Operations Wing Vice Commander**

**First Quarter 2009**

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**CPO Rick Robertson, USN, Ret, Director**

### **RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE**

**110 E Sextant Ave, Bldg 600, Ground Floor, Suite 1024**

**Phone 784-4679, E mail: 27SOW.CVR@cannon.af.mil**

### **From the RAPO**

**Community service project:** The Cannon AFB Airman Leadership School (ALS) and Air Force Sergeant Association (AFSA) 1255 are collecting unused cell phones which they will have refurbished and given to local organizations such as the Victims of Domestic Violence shelter, who will provide them to their clients. If you have such cell phones please contact the ALS or AFSA at Cannon or should you be on base during this office working hours, you may drop them off. Your assistance will be appreciated.

**Retiree newsletter/services on line:** For sometime a restricted number of newsletters have been mailed and placed on **Cannon AFB home page: [cannon.af.mil](http://cannon.af.mil)** under retiree newsletter link. Cannon AFB Services home page is also available as: **[cannonafbservices.com](http://cannonafbservices.com)** showing listings of all activities on Cannon AFB.

**ID card update:** Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card must provide two types of ID. Those needing new identification cards must have two of the following types of current identification – one of which must include a photo:

Driver's license or ID issued by a state or outlying U.S. commonwealth or possession ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities

School ID card with photograph

Voter's registration card

U.S. military ID card

Certificate of U.S. citizenship

Certificate of naturalization

For those 18 and younger, who are unable to present a document previously listed, may bring:

School record or report card

Clinic, doctor or hospital record

Daycare or nursery school record

### **Items of interest**

**Ways to protect your identity:** (AARP) The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has reported that for the eighth consecutive year, identity theft topped the list, more than four times the next highest entry. A recent survey found that 8.4 million American were victim of identity theft last year. Some ways to protect your identity might be:

**Safeguard personal information:** **Dumpster diving** is a proven way to gather personal information, so, shred account information and financial statements, and when sending personal information do so from a secure location such as the post office.

**Don't fall for scare tactics:** **Beware** of anyone who reports a service issue of emergency and asks for your personal information, if it is a legitimate relationship; they already have your information.

**Protect your social security number:** This number is most probably the most important number as it holds a pathway to your personal information such as health and financial information, therefore never write it on a check, use it as a password or give out unnecessarily.

**Monitor credit reports:** If you see an unfamiliar charge on your credit report, contact your financial institution for instructions immediately. There are many ways to monitor your credit reports.

**ALS as a compensable illness:** (AFRNS) Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig's disease is a neuromuscular disease that affects 20,000 to 30,000 people of all races and ethnicities in the United States; is relentlessly progressive and almost always fatal. ALS causes degeneration of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that leads to muscle weakness, muscle atrophy and loss of spontaneous muscle activity; the cause is unknown and there is no known effective treatment. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) secretary announced recently that ALS will become a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more continuous service. "Veterans are developing ALS in rates higher than that of the general

population” advised VA Secretary James Peake; “ALS is a disease that progresses rapidly, once diagnosed. There simply isn’t time to develop the evidence needed to support compensation claims before the veteran becomes seriously ill. My decision will make those claims much easier to process for them and their families to receive the compensation that has been earned through their service to our nation”. The new interim regulation applies to all applications for benefits received by VA on or after September 23, 2008 or that are pending before VA, the U.S Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims or the U.S. Court of Appeals for Federal Circuit on this date.

**NPRC (National Personnel Records Center (NPRC))** requests are easier on line. Military veterans and next of kin of deceased can now obtain copies of documents, such as discharge certificate (DD214) online at [vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov). The web-based application now eliminates mailroom processing time, because the requestor is asked online to supply all information essential to process the application, delays normally occur when NPRC has to ask for additional information, is minimized. Users are, however, required to complete the application online and then download a signature verification document that must be signed and mailed to NPRC WEB, 9700 Page Ave, St.Louis MO 63132 or faxed to 314-801-9049 within 30 days, should it not be received during that time frame , the request will be deactivated and removed from the system. The NPRC can be contacted at 314-801-0800.

**Express Scripts Data Breach;** One of the nation’s largest processors of pharmacy prescriptions said that extortionists are threatening to disclose personal and medical information about millions of Americans if the company fails to meet payment demands. St.Louis based Express Scripts said 6 November that in early October it received a letter that included names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers and, in some cases, prescription data on 75 of its customers. Chief Executive George Paz said in a statement that Express Scripts has no intention of paying and that the company is working with the FBI to track down those responsible for the scam. Express Scripts is the third largest U.S. pharmacy benefit management firm which process and pays drug claims with 1600 companies and approximately 500 million prescriptions a year for about 50 million Americans.

**TOMB of the UNKNOWN:** A proposal to replace the cracked and weathered white marble monument that crowns the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery has stirred up a years-long controversy. The always guarded tomb to the nation’s war dead is a potent symbol of sacrifice and patriotism and the above ground monument has cracks running 48 feet around it, the most visible part. Congress authorized the tomb as a memorial in 1921 to honor the unknown war dead of WWI, which had ended three years earlier. On November of that year, then known as Armistice Day and now Veterans Day, an unidentified American soldier of the war was interred in an underground vault. For years, Army officials have studied the idea of building a replica because of concerns that the damage, getting worse despite repairs is distracting from the monuments solemn appearance. The Army report advised the cracks are not compromising the stones structural integrity and are repairable, but the monument will continue to deteriorate. Repeated repairs will leave the monument “looking shabby, patched and worn”. The Army has support for its position of repairing the monument now but keeping the option open to replace it in the future. The cost of repairing the monument would cost about \$65,000 while a replica monument would cost \$2.2 million. Army officials have said the importance of preserving the tomb as long as possible is paramount, but to replace when it becomes necessary.

**VA health care funding:** Nine veterans groups, united in what they call “Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform” have been calling for reform because only twice in the last 14 years, and three times in the last 20 years, has Veterans Affairs Department budget been approved by the start of the fiscal year on 1 October. The groups proposed that Congress pass a budget for veterans programs a full year ahead of time, meaning that in 2009 the lawmakers would need to pass both fiscal year 2010 and 2011 budgets. President elect Obama, the day after his election pledged as president to fully fund VA and establish a “world class VA planning

division". In a letter to the veterans groups he pledged his support for the proposal. Another benefit to advanced funding is that veterans programs will get a first slice of the federal budget, without having to directly compete with other federal programs.

**From the Commissary**

784-4330

**The commissary will be closed the DAY following each calendared holiday.**

**From the Exchange**

784-3387

See attached commentary

**The Landing and End Zone**

784-2853/784-4283

**Hours of Operation**

Monday-Friday open for lunch 1100-1300

Wednesday-Friday Casa de Falcon Dining Room open 5pm-8pm

Fridays till 9pm

Social Hour every Friday 6pm-7pm

Refueling Pit Wednesday-Thursday 4pm-9pm, Friday-Saturday 3pm-1am

Tumbleweed Lounge open Friday only 4pm-11pm

Brunch monthly; refer to Horizon Magazine for details

**Members**

E1-E3 \$4

E4-E9 \$6

Officers and qualified civilians \$13

**Change of address**

**Do Not send your address changes to this office,** All retiree, SBP, RSFPP, surviving spouse payments should be sent to below addresses, which are contractor that scans the written request as a computer image and transmits it to DFAS. Include your social security and that of your deceased spouse.

**Annuitant Pay**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Annuitant Pay

PO Box 7131

London KY 40742-7131

800-321-1018

216-522-5955

Fax 800-982-8459

Submit **COPIES** rather than originals, documents **CANNOT/WILL NOT BE RETURNED**

**Retired pay**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retirement Pay

PO Box 7130

London KY 40742-7130

800-321-1080

216-522-5955

Fax 800-522-6550

**Air Force Instruction 91-207 1 October 1995**

**THE US AIR FORCE TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM**

**Section C- Occupant Protection and Vehicle Requirements**

5) All people in a moving motor vehicle on Air Force installations or off an installation using a vehicle for conduct of Air Force business must ensure operability and use of available installed occupant protective devices (restraints, air bags, child safety seats..etc) required by the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 571, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

5.1) Comply with local occupant protective device laws. Installation traffic safety program shall be consistent with the State and local child safety seat requirements. Installation traffic safety program shall specify age, weight, or other criteria for child safety seats use. If state or host-nation child restraint laws conflict with these instructions, apply the most stringent guidance.

5.2) Vehicles of model years 1965 and newer must have installed occupant protective devices within the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Vehicles manufactured before 1965 must have occupant restraints installed if required by host-state or nation laws.

#### A little humor

The Company Commander and the 1<sup>st</sup> SGT were in the field. As they were preparing to hit the sack, 1<sup>st</sup> SGT said “Sir, look up into the sky and tell me what you see” to which the CO responded “I see millions of stars”. 1<sup>st</sup> SGT “What does that tell you?” CO “astronomically it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Meteorologically it tells me we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you Top?” Top replied “Well Sir, it tells me that somebody stole our tent.”

#### Sound Familiar

Swift as the wind  
Silent as to forest  
Conquer like the fire  
Unmovable as the mountain

#### Freedom is not free

## Commentary



**The following was received from Mr. Jeff Willis, General Manager,  
Cannon Base Exchange**

**AAFES is a ‘non-appropriated fund’ agency that provides quality merchandise at competitively low process. AAFES saves its customers an overall savings of 20% compared to the competition. You can find a variety of merchandise at AAFES facilities, including clothing, electronics, hardware, linens, health and beauty care products, snack items and more – all of which are tax free. In addition to saving you money every day, AAFES uses its profits and earnings to support military morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) programs, while the rest is used to fund renovations of facilities or build new ones. For the past decade, AAFES has contributed \$2.4 billion to MWR programs for youth services, recreation centers, arts and crafts, post functions and golf courses. The Cannon Exchange has contributed nearly \$237,000 to MWR this year alone and plans to begin renovations of the Cannon BX and Burger King in the near future. AAFES facilities include the BX, Shopette, Burger King, Taco Bell, Specialty Express and Theater. You can also visit other concessionaires, such as The Java Loft, Carolyn’s, Prince Cleaners, and Barber Shop that offer various products and services to our customers. Additionally, you can shop online at [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) and make purchases through the AAFES catalog. AAFES is all over the world – ‘We Go Where You Go’. When airmen and soldiers deploy to remote locations, AAFES is there with them providing them a taste of home. Some of our Cannon AAFES associates have deployed to help support and provide services to our airmen and soldiers. Your Cannon Exchange is a source of employment and is always looking for hard working, customer oriented employees. If you know of someone looking for a job, have them apply online at [aafes.com](http://aafes.com).**

### **Cannon Exchange contacts:**

<b>Jeff Willis, General Mgr</b>	<b>575-784-3387</b>
<b>Christel Kelly, Main Store Assistant Mgr</b>	<b>575-784-3387</b>
<b>Russell Dennard, Shopette Mgr</b>	<b>575-784-5766</b>
<b>Sheila Enderle, Burger King Mgr</b>	<b>575-784-3878</b>
<b>Nenita Morgan, Taco Bell Mgr</b>	<b>575-784-9362</b>
<b>Patricia Bazar, Specialty Express/Theater Mgr</b>	<b>575-784-5777/2582</b>

**Jeff Willis, General Manager**